



## *Nez Perce N.F.* **NEWS RELEASE**

United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Nez Perce National Forest  
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### **Nez Perce National Forest Meets With North Idaho Recreation RAC**

Wallace, Idaho—The Nez Perce National Forest was represented in north Idaho to meet and discuss three Forest recreation projects with the newly designated Coeur d'Alene District Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC). This Committee has been in existence for several years to provide advice and recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on resource and land management issues for approximately 241,000 acres of BLM land within 11 counties in northern Idaho, and has recently been identified as the North Idaho Forests RRAC.

The Nez Perce National Forest collects fees at Recreation sites such as campgrounds and rental cabins in accordance with the Forest Land Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). This authority allows 95% of the fees collected to stay on the forest to be used for operation, maintenance and/or capital improvement of the sites.

The Nez Perce Forest strives to seek public participation in the design and operation of our recreation programs, and the FLREA provides specific requirements related to implementing new fees, changing existing fees, and informing publics on the use of recreation fee revenues. The FLREA requires the Forest Service to either develop a RRAC or use an existing Committee. The Nez Perce, Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forests in North Idaho chose to use the existing C'dA RRAC to provide the same advice with regard to Forest Service Recreation Fee projects. Using the RRAC as a sounding board for new and changes to our Recreation Fee program allows the Forests to build positive relationships with key stakeholders concerning recreation fees. Decisions and issues around the recreation fee program are clearly communicated to key stakeholders, through RRACs.

The Cd'A RRAC meets two to four times per year. Membership includes a cross section of Idahoans representing energy, tourism and commercial recreation interests; environmental, archeological or historic interests, elected officials, Tribes, and the public-at-large.

The Nez Perce Forest presented the Meadow Creek Cabin and Lookout Butte lookout tower rentals for an increase in fees, and the Adams Ranger House as a new addition to the rental program. Meadow Creek and Lookout Butte are existing rentals in the program, but Lookout Butte has been down for deferred maintenance repairs until now. Adams Ranger House was a collaborative historic restoration project between the Nez Perce National Forest and the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). "The Adams project has a very strong local following and great community support. The historic restoration is complete and the National Register of Historic Places eligible cabin is in great shape after a lot of hard work by the Forest Service, local contractors, and volunteers. We are excited to allow nightly rental," explains Cindy Schacher, Archaeological Technician.

Beginning this winter, Adams Ranger house (located on the Clearwater Ranger District) will be available for nightly rental through the National Recreation Rental System website at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov), and Meadow Creek and Lookout Butte (located on the Moose Creek Ranger District) will be available for rental next summer. The RRAC concurred with the Forest Service business plan for each of the sites and supported the fees of \$40 per night for both Meadow Creek and Lookout Butte, and \$50 nightly rental for Adams Ranger House. "Our goal is to make these cabins as self sufficient as possible. The season of use, amenities provided, costs for operation, maintenance and future capital improvement were the main factors identified in determining an appropriate fee structure," explains Anthony Botello, Recreation Program Leader. "The RRAC was very supportive of these projects. They acknowledged the importance of a spectrum of recreation opportunities, including cabin and lookout rentals, in the Forest Service recreation program" he reports.

For more information about the FLREA program, the Cd'A Recreation RAC, these or other recreation rentals, please contact Anthony Botello at (208) 983-4012.

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